

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. SEMLER

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise today joined by my New England colleagues Senators Jeffords, Kerry, Snowe, Reed, Dodd, Gregg, Lieberman, Chafee, Collins, and Leahy to congratulate Robert J. Semler as he ends an impressive career as the Regional Administrator for the Department of Labor. Since 1985, Bob has been responsible for the administration of the Federal employment and training programs throughout New England. He has ensured that workers and employers in New England understood and took advantage of the opportunities in the Job Training Partnership Act, the School-to-Work Act, the Welfare-to-Work Act, and most recently in the Workforce Investment Act. He has taken federal programs from print to the people and made every program work for the particular needs of New England.

During his 33-year career with the Department of Labor Bob has actively tried to meet the needs of employers and employees, understanding that economic development means investing in people. He has made the six New England States operate as a region, and with that collaboration has come a renewed commitment to the cross-State initiatives that have allowed our region to remain competitive in attracting new industries.

Bob's commitment to people began with his time with the Peace Corps. From 1964 to 1970 he served as the Western Venezuela Regional Director overseeing Peace Corps volunteers and programs that worked with community development, health initiatives and agricultural cooperatives. He took the lessons learned in community building and imbedded those beliefs in the implementation of job training policy over the next 27 years.

Countless New England workers have raised their skills and found better jobs because of the work of Bob Semler, and it is with great pride and genuine affection that we recognize his impressive contributions to our region and wish him all our best as he begins the next phase in his impressive career.●

FREE OVER-THE-AIR BROADCASTING

• Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the important role that free, over-the-air broadcasting plays in local communities.

Every 2 years, the National Association of Broadcasters conducts an industry-wide census of television and radio broadcasters' public service efforts. The results from the most recent census found that America's radio and television stations contributed a staggering \$9.9 billion in service to their local communities throughout 2001.

The President has spoken in recent months of how Americans have rediscovered the value of service. Today, I would like to applaud an industry that consistently demonstrates how small

business can weave itself into the fabric of a community and play a vital role in helping others.

In my home State, radio and television stations often assist local charities and non-profits. It is estimated that local Arkansas television and radio stations' community service efforts during 2001 amounted to over 71 million dollars.

During 2001, KPOM-TV in Fort Smith continued its partnership with the Salvation Army to support the charity's year-end Red Kettle Drive. The event netted a quarter of a million dollars to support needy families in the surrounding area. On their end, KPOM ran a schedule of 10 public service announcements per day to support the effort.

Local Arkansas stations have also actively worked to promote health and health awareness in their communities. In Little Rock, radio stations KURB-FM and KLAL-FM were official sponsors and hosts of this year's Arkansas Race for the Cure benefit for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Thanks to these stations' promotional activities, more than 34 thousand people participated, bringing in more than 1.6 million dollars to fight cancer. In Mountain Home, AM and FM stations KTLO and KCCT-FM partner every year to put on a Senior Fair and Hospital Expo. The event brings in more than 3,000 senior citizens every year for free health tests, information and referrals. In Jonesboro, KAIT-TV conducted an active Public Service Announcement campaign to promote prostate cancer awareness. The on-air effort included interviews with prostate cancer survivors in the community. The timing of the campaign coincided with a local hospital's program to provide free screenings for area men.

While \$9.9 billion is an impressive figure, what is most impressive about broadcasters' community service work is that each station endeavors to meet the community's unique needs. The efforts of broadcasters are as diverse as the different communities they serve. Local broadcast stations serve every community differently.

In this new era, I think it is important that we recognize those among us who have a solid record of service. And so to my local Arkansas broadcasters, I would like to say thank you. We appreciate everything that you do to make our communities and our lives better, and we sincerely hope that you will keep up the good work.●

SALUTING SOUTH CAROLINA CREDIT UNIONS

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, as we watch our budget deficits going up, up, and away, I take solace in knowing that today in South Carolina we are teaching our teenagers the real value of money.

The South Carolina Credit Union League, in conjunction with the Clemson Cooperative Extension, is fur-

nishing materials to teachers throughout the State to help build financial literacy among our teenagers. Teenagers spend \$155 billion a year nationwide, yet only 10 percent have any financial training in high school. It is imperative that they learn, as early as possible, sound fiscal habits. I thank the credit unions in South Carolina for taking on this initiative, which is part of a nationwide effort, spearheaded by the National Endowment for Financial Education.

To recognize the important role high school teachers play in this effort, the credit unions also recently named Sue Dillon, a teacher at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, SC, as the Financial Literacy Educator of the Year. Her commitment to students' financial knowledge is reaching hundreds of young people in five South Carolina schools. Since today's high school graduates stand to earn more than \$1 million as adults, the lessons Ms. Dillon teaches may be some of the most valuable her students ever learn. I congratulate her on receiving this honor.●

TRIBUTE TO RAY UHALDE

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to pay a special tribute to a great public servant who is retiring later this month after nearly 25 years of tireless and effective service. Raymond J. Uhalde has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training for the past 8 years. As the senior career professional in the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), he provided executive direction for its \$11 billion annual budget and 1300 employees. Ray also served as acting Assistant Secretary from 1996 to 1998, and held other key policy positions during his tenure at the Department of Labor. As Deputy Assistant Secretary, he led important initiatives that improved the nationwide systems of job training, job placement, and income support that are administered by ETA. These public investments help millions of Americans increase their job skills, make smoother transitions between jobs, and improve their wage levels. They also help employers find the skilled workers they need. As a result, family incomes and our nation's prosperity have both improved.

Ray has received many accolades for his leadership over his years of service, including recognition by President Clinton in awarding him with the rank of Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service, as well as the Department of Labor's most prestigious career award, the Philip Arnow Award for excellence. But what stands above even these awards is Ray's unquestionable integrity and professionalism on a bipartisan basis. Ray enjoys a great deal of respect for his leadership and skill in shaping employment policy from Members of Congress and their staffs on both sides of the aisle, enabling him to be an effective representative for the Department of Labor